

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Collins, Ross F, Lt. Comm.

1920-1934

[Kansas City, Mo]

USS DOWNES,  
Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.,  
21 April 1920.

Dear Mr Wood:-

You may be surprised to hear from me as I have not been around to see you for some time, but I am still in the service and have been spending the winter down here hoping that Congress will appropriate enough money to finish some necessary repairs on my destroyer.

Where can I obtain some description of the various medals and decorations that have been issued or authorized by the different nations during the war ? I am rather getting out of touch with things down here.

My medal collection has also failed to make any increase altho I have searched every pawn shop in the vicinity for U.S. service medals. Have you any duplicated that you can let me purchase ? You thought that you had several that you could spare. One was a Porto Rico Occupation I believe and another a Civil War. What is the ruling on the bars for the Victory medal. Is it all subject to open purchase from Bailey, Banks, and Biddle or are they to be issued? If the former is true there will not be much value to the bars. Give my regards to Mr Wyman and

Mr Noe.

Sincerely yours,

*Ross F. Collins*  
Lieutenant, USN.,

Commanding.



April 28th, 1920.

Lt. Ross F. Collins,  
USS DOWNES,  
Navy Yard,  
Norfolk, Va.

My dear Lt. Collins:-

I am replying to your letter of April 21st to Mr. Wood as he has taken advantage of my return and has himself gone abroad..

As regards descriptions of various medals, &c, issued during the war, I think a little book recently published in England is the best thing yet out. It is entitled "Ribbons and Medals" by Commander H. Taprell Doring, R.N., and was published in London by George Philip & Son, 32 Fleet Street, in 1919. I think you can secure a copy either from the publishers or through A. H. Baldwin, 4A Duncannon Street, London. Its price is somewhere in the neighborhood of five shillings. . Another work on the same subject, but emphasizing especially the medals and decorations awarded to Americans in the last three years, by Col. Wyllie of the General Staff, will shortly be published by Putnam in this City. The manuscript is already, and we have given some assistance in preparing the plates so I imagine it will be only a few weeks before the book itself appears.

The rulings on the Bars in regard to the Victory Medal have been somewhat jumbled, and I am not quite sure what the latest is. Both bars and medal are to be issued, and are not available for purchase. The contract for making the bars and medals has not yet been let, although the bids are in. I believe the difficulty is that the lowest bids are so much below the price at which a decent medal can be produced that the Quartermaster General has been afraid to accept them, and will probably call for further bids.



We have found some duplicate American campaign medals, and I am sending them to you by registered post, under separate cover. You may have these pieces at \$1.50 each.

Some time ago you wrote us asking what was the latest issue of our publication. That letter has been on my desk for some time to answer, but for some reason I have not got around to it. The last number of the Journal was Volume 52, for the year 1918.

Hope you will get up to New York again sometime, and at any rate keep in touch with us.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

May 30, 1920

Kindly note:

Please change my address to:

---

Lieut Ross F. Ballin, U.S.N.

U.S.S. Connecticut,

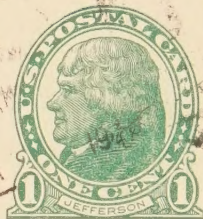
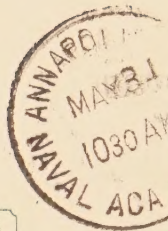
70 Postmaster New York City.

---

Very truly yours

Ross F. Ballin

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



American Numismatic Society  
156 and Broadway  
New York, N. Y.



In Reply Refer to No.

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
BATTLESHIP SQUADRON TWO  
U. S. S. CONNECTICUT, FLAGSHIP

Address { Lieut Ross F. Collins,  
U.S.N.  
U.S.S. Connecticut  
% Postmaster New York  
City.

Annapolis, Maryland  
June 3, 1920.

Mr Arthur C. Wyman,  
New York City.

My dear Mr Wyman:-

Thank you very much for looking up the medals and sending them to me. I am enclosing money order for \$4.50 for same. I wish to also thank you for answering all my questions. It is hard to keep up with the latest things in medals when you are at sea.

I now have about 45 medals in my collection and altho this must appear small to you it represents quite a lot of effort to me. I sail on the 5th of June



In Reply Refer to No.

- 2 -  
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
BATTLESHIP SQUADRON TWO  
U. S. S. CONNECTICUT, FLAGSHIP

for Honolulu via the Panama Canal and hope to pick up some South American decorations on this cruise. I would like to receive Vol 52 of the Journal if I am entitled to it as I have never received it. When the new commemorative fifty-cent piece or bill comes out I would appreciate it if you would get me a few and bill them to me. This is the only way I will be able to get them as I will be out of the country for three months.

Thank you for your trouble,  
With kindest regards,  
Ross F. Collins.



June 8th, 1920

Lieutenant Ross F. Collins, U.S.N.  
U.S.S. CONNECTICUT  
C/o Postmaster, New York City

My dear Mr. Collins:

I do not know how long it will be before this letter will reach you, but thought I would drop you a line in reply to your letter of June 3rd.

I am glad you like the medals and, of course, we will keep you in mind with regard to others as they come along.

Some time ago, you gave me a list of those you had in your Collection that I might use it as a guide in securing others. Unfortunately, during my absence abroad this list has been mislaid, and it occurs to me that if not too much trouble you might make a new list for me.

I quite appreciate the effort necessary to gather even a small collection of these pieces together and shall be very glad to do what I can to assist you. I will, also, keep my eyes open for the commemorative fifty-cent pieces.

I believe you are entitled to Volume 52 of the Journal and will see that you get a copy of it. Perhaps it would be just as well if I held it here for you until you are more in reach.

Be sure and look us up when you get to New York again.

Very truly yours,



11 Oct. 1920,

Gentlemen: Please change my  
address to: -

*Changed*  
Lieut. Ross F. Collins, U.S.N.,  
U.S.S. Tennessee,  
% Postmaster New York City

Ross F. Collins

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



American Humismatic Society,  
155 th + Broadway,  
New York City.



November 12th, 1920.

Lt. Ross F. Collins,  
U.S.S. Tennessee,  
c/o Postmaster,  
New York City.

My dear Lieut. Collins:-

We have just had brought to the Museum a large collection of continental decorations and insignia of Orders of Knighthood. Most of these are German or of the German states. It is quite the most elaborate display of the sort that I have seen for a long time, and I think pieces from it could be purchased quite reasonably.

Would you care to come up sometime and look it over? I was sorry to have missed your visit to the Museum last Sunday. If it is impossible for you to get here on a week day, I might arrange to meet you here on Sunday afternoon if you could please to let me know two or three days in advance, or perhaps you could get here in the evening in which case I would also try to arrange to meet you here.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

January 10th, 1921.

Lieut. Ross W. Collins,  
U.S.S. Tennessee, U.S. Navy,  
c/o Postmaster,  
New York City.

Dear Lieut. Collins:-

As we are now going over our membership list in connection with sending out our monographs which are to take the place of the American Journal of Ichthyology, I do not find your name listed among those who received the Journal for last year.

Please let us know if you have ever received a copy of the Journal since you became a member in 1918, and whether you would care to have these back numbers sent you. We would be very glad indeed to forward them to you as soon as we receive word as to those you lack.

Very truly yours,

Curator.



## U. S. S. TENNESSEE

Navy Yard, New York, N.Y.,

4 February 1921.

Mr Howland Wood,  
New York City.

Dear Mr Wood:

I have never received any copies of the Journal with the exception of the one that was given me at the time I became a member. I would appreciate it very much if you will send the back numbers to my home address for me as I am very much interested in them. The home address is:

Lieutenant Ross F. Collins, USN.,  
214 South Second Street,  
Clinton, Missouri.

Care Mrs R.F. Collins.

I received the monograph on Money Hoards and was much pleased with it and am looking forward to the other copies. Continue to address me on the Tennessee except for the old Journals.

Tell Mr Wyman that I intend to call him up soon and look at the new decorations he wrote about to me.

I hope to come out to your meeting this Monday as I have never attended one due to the movements of my ship.

With best wishes,

  
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy.

March 17th, 1921

Lieutenant Ross F. Collins  
U.S.A. Tennessee  
C/o Postmaster, New York

Dear Lieutenant Collins:

We have just received a copy of Colonel Wyllie's book on Decorations; and if you have not already seen this, I think it would be well worth your while to get it as he treats his subject in a very clear and lucid manner. The title is "Orders, Decorations and Insignia" by Colonel Robert A. Wyllie, U. S. P. Putnam Sons.

Very truly yours,

HW/E

Curator

APRIL 11, 1921.

Gentlemen:-

Please change my address to the following, and send everything for me to this one address. This will be permanent.

ROSS F. COLLINS,  
CLINTON, Henry Co.,  
MISSOURI.

Very truly yours,





THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

AMERICAN HUMANE SOCIETY

156 th St. & Broadway,

NEW YORK, N.Y.

*John R. Bland, President.*

*Capital Paid in Cash \$4,500,000.*



# *United States Fidelity (and) Guaranty Company*

ROSS F. COLLINS  
GENERAL AGENT

CLINTON, MO.  
5 October 1921.

Mr Howland Wood,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr Wood:-

I resigned from the Navy in May of this year and am now in the insurance business here, but am still interested in numismatics. I have not paid my dues for this year yet but do not drop me as I will pay up pretty soon. The new monographs you are getting out are very interesting but I hope more of them will be devoted to medals. Weyman showed me one he was getting up on the Peninsular medal with bars for Canadian service, but I have never received it. Was it published? What numbers have been published? I want to check up on mine. As I lose lots of the benefits of membership I thought you might be willing to help me out in my collection by selling me duplicates and picking up specimens for me at sales, etc. Would you do this? I will send you a list of what I have and if you will be good enough to keep it it will be a guide to go on.

Where can I get a complete list of medals issued by France, Italy, Germany and the other countries that have issued a regular series of campaign medals? Are Victory medals easy to pick up in New York? I am full of questions but will stop for this time with the one of-what is Weyman's address in Paris and is there a duty on medals ordered from Europe.

Sincerely,

*Ross F. Collins*  
Ross F. Collins.

October 11th, 1921

Mr. Ross F. Collins  
United States Fidelity & Guaranty Co.  
Clinton, Mo.

Dear Mr. Collins:

I was very glad to hear from you. We will get out ten monographs for this year. I am sending you today under separate cover the last two which have been issued - Medallie Work of A. A. Weirman, and The Mint of the Philippine Islands. You should have received previous to these, the following -

No. 1 Coin Hoards      No. 2 Detachments of Medallions  
No. 3 Alexander Hoards      No. 4 Mexican Revolutionary  
Coinage  
No. 5 Jenny Lind Medals      No. 6 Five Roman Gold  
Medallions

If these have not reached you, please let us know.

As yet, Wyman has not sent us his manuscript on his Peninsula War medals. He took this with him to finish when he went to France. His Address is -

Arthur C. Wyman  
24 Avenue de Maine  
Paris, XV, France

Just at present we have no duplicates of American badges. In fact, we seldom do have. I have, however, for sale that big lot of German Decorations. Would you be interested in any of these? Personally, I do not go to the auction sales. We buy so little there that I find it is not worth my while; and what little I do buy I give either to Hiler direct or to Michael Schler, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.



Mr. Ross F. Collins

October 11th, 1921

I would be very glad to have a list of what you have as it might come in handy. I do not know where you can get any good list of recent medals issued by the European countries. Dorling's last two pamphlets, which can be gotten from J.H. Dorling, Twickenham Street, Dorling Press, bring them fairly well up to date in a brief manner. Colonel Wylie's recent book on Decorations covers this subject well. It is a most useful book, and I think sells for Eight Dollars.

So far, the United States, England and Belgium are the only countries which have issued Victory medals. There is an unofficial one sold in France which I think is as good as what the official one will be when it is out. As our Victory medals are not easy to grow up, and I doubt if they are any commoner here than anywhere else.

I think there is a thirty per cent duty on medals - probably it will be higher with the new Tariff.

Very truly yours,

Curator

November 23, 1921

Ross F. Collins, Esq.  
513 E. Jefferson Street  
Clinton, Mo.

Dear Mr. Collins:

We have a large number of duplicates  
German, Austrian and Bulgarian decorations  
which we are anxious to sell. We are en-  
closing the list of these with prices mark-  
ed. If any of these interest you, we  
would be very glad to forward them to you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

FW/E  
Enc.

December 17th, 1921

Ross P. Collins, Esq.  
513 E. Jefferson Street  
Clinton, Mo.

Dear Mr. Collins:

If the German, Austrian and Bulgarian decorations, about which I wrote you recently, do not interest you, I would be glad if you would be so good as to return the list at your early convenience.

Very truly yours,

Curator



*John R. Bland, President.*

*Capital Paid in Cash \$4,500,000.*



# *United States Fidelity (and) Guaranty Company*

ROSS F. COLLINS  
GENERAL AGENT

CLINTON, Mo.

29 December 1921.

Howland Wood,  
155th & Broadway,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr Wood:-

I appreciate the letters you have sent me and the various information on decorations and medals. I am sorry that at the present time I am not able to afford the luxury of some nice additions to my collection that are on that list. I have made a copy of it however for future reference and am returning the original copy to you. I would however like a specimen of the Order of the Red Eagle, Without crown, Second class. Price \$3.00. If you care to send this to me I will mail you a check to cover it also for my dues.

I have received all of the monographs with the exception of No 6-Five Roman Gold Medallions. Please send me a copy of it. I am looking forward to Wyman's manuscript on Peninsular Medals also the proposed one on French Decorations. As soon as I get a chance I will make up a list of my collection for you and if you see any bargain "fillers" along that line perhaps you could get them for me. I have always wanted a pair of bronze stars that Prosky has for Poona and Marajpoor (spelling) but he is unreasonable about them. I think he wants \$40 apiece for them.

I will appreciate a letter from you on anything new that turns up, as you are about my only source of information on numismatic matters now that I am so far from the coast.

Yours very truly,

*Ross F. Collins*

January 3rd, 1922

Ross F. Collins, Esq.  
U.S. Fidelity & Guaranty Company  
Clinton, Mo.

My dear Mr. Collins:

Your letter with the price list of Decorations returned. Many thanks for these.

I am sending you the Order of the Red Eagle, 2nd. class, price \$3.00. Please make this cheque out to me.

Wyman is still at work on the 1812 medals. I do not expect that he intends to deliver the 1812 medals for once yet awhile. As a matter of fact, I do not know just when he will finish what he is working on.

Nothing lately has turned up besides the German Decorations. I shall try to keep you informed when anything of interest comes along.

I am sending you another copy of Five Roman Gold Medallions, which I hope will reach you this time.

Wishing you the Compliments of the season,

Very truly yours,

Curator

W.F./12

*Western Department*  
*Phoenix Assurance Company, Ltd*  
*of London*



17 January 1922

T. W. Collins & Son, Agents  
CLINTON, MO.

Mr Howland Wood,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr Wood:-

Enclosed please find check to you for \$3.00 in payment for the Order of the Red Eagle, 2nd class, and check for \$10.00 for annual membership dues 1921 and 1922. I was very much pleased with the decoration. I also received the missing monograph for which I thank you.

I am looking forward to these monographs with much interest and think it is an excellent forward step for the Society. I only regret that they are not more evenly balanced between medals and decorations and coins. I would like to see a plan started by which eventually the decorations and medals of each country would appear in this form. Some of the larger countries would no doubt require several monographs to include their orders. I believe that there would be a good outside sale for a series of this type. What do you think of this. The monograph on French Decorations that is scheduled would make an excellent start. Of course I am prejudiced in favor of medals but I do think too much space is given to medals and medallions.

Yours very truly,



January 20th, 1922

Ross F. Collins, Esq.  
F. W. Collins & Sons  
Clinton, Mo.

Dear Mr. Collins:

Your favour at hand enclosing cheques.  
I beg to thank you for these.

I trust that you are getting on with  
your new venture and do not miss too much  
the life on the bounding deep. I suppose  
you have the rolling prairies!

We are perfectly willing to get mono-  
graphs out on all subjects if we can find  
the people to write them. We here cannot  
tackle everything. Probably there will  
follow another monograph on Italian Decora-  
tions. We are also trying to interest an-  
other man in writing these, so possibly your  
wish will be partly gratified.

Wishing you a prosperous year,

Very truly yours,

Gerator

HW, E

# COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT

J.C. NICHOLS INVESTMENT COMPANY

COMMERCE TRUST BUILDING

KANSAS CITY

J.C. NICHOLS, PRESIDENT

911 Commerce Bldg.,  
Kansas City, Mo.,  
16 September 1923.

Mr Howland Wood,  
New York City.

Dear Mr Wood:-

I sent my check some time ago in payment of this years dues but have never received my receipt for same. I have also failed to receive any monographs for a long time. Will you kindly look into this and see that all mail in future is sent to me at the following address;

911 Commerce Bldg.,  
c/o J.C.Nichols Inv. Co.,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

I wish I could visit you this fall and brush up on medals some but am afraid I wont be able to do it. If you know of any collectors in Kansas City I would like to have their names.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

*Row F. Green*

*Recd. July 23, 1923.  
N.N. & M. # 15, 16, 17, 18 & Proceedings  
Sent September 20, 1923.*

September 20th, 1923.

Mr. Ross F. Collins,  
c/o J. C. Nichols Inv. Co.,  
311 Commerce Building,  
Kansas City, Mo..

Dear Mr. Collins:

I have your letter of September 16th, and on looking into the matter find that your cheque for membership dues was received on July 23rd. I am sorry that a receipt was not sent you at time, and am enclosing one herewith.

Under separate cover, I am sending you all the monographs published since No. 15, which is the last one you received, I believe. If this is not correct, kindly let me have a word from you.

I do not know the names of collectors in Kansas City..

I, too, wish that you could visit us and see some of the nice medals in our collection. At present I am re-arranging these decorations, and it is a source of great pleasure to know that the Society has such a representative collection.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Curator.



1st March, 1928

Mr. Ross F. Collins,  
The National City Company,  
1017 Baltimore Ave.,  
Kansas City, Kans.

Dear Mr. Collins:

Mr. Noe handed me your letter, and I am very glad to be able to answer it. I am also extremely glad to hear from you once again.

The bottom seems to have dropped out of medal collecting during the past two or three years and just at the present moment I do not know of any dealer who has really any stock of medals. I have no duplicate Punjab or Madagascar ribbon; the best place to get these is from A. H. Faldwin, 4-a Duncannon Street, London. I certainly would get into communication with him, as he does a large business in medals and would be your chief source of supply. In fact, just at the present moment I do not know where else you can obtain these. The only disadvantage in getting things from abroad is that you are liable to be hung up for duty, which is by no means light. You might try some of the dealers on the enclosed list. A few of them now and then do have medals. Proskey is now out at Little Falls, N.J. You will find him under the New York Coin and Stamp Company. He may or may not answer your letters; he has not been well of late and I know he has been slow in his correspondence.

Let me know which monograph you wish replaced and, if you don't mind, send us a list of those you have in duplicate. There may be some we would want. Just at the present moment, we are rather shy in duplicate medals. I have a few commonplace Austrians and I think that is about all; I have no U.S. ones.

Very truly yours,

Curator



# THE NATIONAL CITY COMPANY

NATIONAL CITY BANK BUILDING

NEW YORK

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO  
1017 BALTIMORE AVE.  
KANSAS CITY

KANSAS CITY

28 February 1928

Mr Sydney P. Roe,  
156th St & Broadway,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr Roe:-

Enclosed please find check for ~~10~~<sup>10.00</sup> for my 1927-28 dues. Being so far from other medal collectors I sometimes lose interest in my hobby. I have two medals without ribbons, - I wonder if you could obtain sufficient ribbon for each and advise me of the cost? They are "Army of Punjab Medal 1848-49" with bar for Goojerat and French Medal for Madagascar. I would also like the address of a medal dealer in N.Y. - I believe his name was Prosky at the N.Y. Coin & Stamp Co. I would be interested in ordering a few medals & orders on approval.





## THE NATIONAL CITY COMPANY

NATIONAL CITY BANK BUILDING

NEW YORK

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO  
1017 BALTIMORE AVE.  
KANSAS CITY

KANSAS CITY

from some reliable firms. Do you think the firms mentioned would be interested?

I have a few extra monographs and am shy one number I wish replaced. I would be glad to turn in my extra copies if you so desire. Will advise you of the titles if you wish them.

Have you any duplicate medals you would dispose of — especially U.S.? I have a fairly complete set of Navy medals but am need of the Army and Marine campaign badges and some Navy.

Very truly yours,  
Ross F. Collins.



Feb. 7, 1931

Mr. Ross F. Collins  
204 Land Bank Bldg  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mr. Collins:

Under separate cover I am glad to send you a copy of monograph No. 14. The following numbers are out of print, and if you have duplicates, we should very much appreciate having you send them to us. These are, Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 11.

Concerning the regulations for the Treasury department gold life saving medal, personally I cannot answer your question, but I am referring your letter to Mr. Bauman L. Belden who has made a special study of this subject with a view to publication. I think he can answer your question with authority.

Sincerely yours,

Curator.

*parcel post 2/7/31*  
*Rush*



NAVY DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF NAVAL RESERVE  
NINTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
8TH BATTALION

508 RIDGE BLDG.,  
KANSAS CITY, MO.,  
18 June 1934.

Mr Howland Wood,  
American Numismatic Society,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr Wood:

Living as far as I do from any other medal collectors or sources of supply I pretty well lose touch with such matters. I have however managed to add to my collection from time to time and am enclosing a list of the pieces I have. I would like a frank opinion from you as to what you think of it. Besides the items listed I have a good many other war medals and orders, including several stars that I cannot identify. I wonder if I made sketches of some of them if some kind person on your staff would tell me what they are. Can you also tell me where I can get any information on German and the various German provinces' orders and medals. I have been hoping someone would issue a monograph on them. I have fourteen medals for Waterloo from various sources. If you have no further use for the list you might return it when you answer.

Cordially yours,

*Ross F. Collins*  
Ross F. Collins,  
Lieut-Commander.

Address: 4343 Campbell St.,  
Kansas City, Mo.



July 11th, 1934

Lt. Commander Ross F. Collins  
4343 Campbell Street  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Commander Collins:

I am sorry that I have been so slow in replying to your letter but I have been away a good deal of late.

I have looked over your list, which I am returning, and you certainly are acquiring a lot of good things. I trust that you will continue to do so because several of the medal and decoration collectors gave up after the War.

If you care to send on sketches of some of your puzzlers, I will see what I can do in attributing them for you. Information regarding German medals before, we'll say, 1900 can be obtained from many books, but I hardly know a book that takes all in detail. Since 1910 I know of nothing that has been issued in the way of books. Most of the publications on German medals are large and expensive.

As I have said above, send along drawings of the medals themselves and I will see what I can do for you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/B  
Enc.